

FORT PIERCE NEWS

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Col. Lockwood's Report on Santa Lucia Inlet.

ays Harbor of Refuge is Needed on the Atlantic Coast of Florida.

As we promised last week we give you the report of Col. D. W. Lockwood, senior member of the board, to the chief of engineers. This report is based directly on the statements and reports of the members of the board at a public hearing held December 11, 1908, at Gilbert's Bar Club House.

BOARD OF ENGINEERS FOR RIVERS AND HARBORS

Washington, D. C., Dec. 22, 1908. I respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army:

The board has had under careful consideration the within report of the district officer of a survey of St. Lucie inlet, and the report of the division engineer thereon. In addition to the information thus acquired, the board had a public hearing in the vicinity of the inlet made an inspection of the locality December 11, 1908. This meeting was attended by a large number of interested persons, who presented both written and oral statements in regard to the necessity for the improvement. Developed at the hearing that, in addition to the value of the improvement from a commercial standpoint, it would be material value as a harbor of refuge for light and moderate draft vessels, this being an item of importance from the fact of there being no harbor on the east coast of Florida between Jacksonville and Miami, a distance of 350 miles. A paper was submitted citing a number of wrecks in recent years within a few miles of this locality.

Conditions here differ from those usually found where an improvement of considerable extent is requested, in that there is here no town or commercial center of importance. The country to be affected by the proposed improvement extends up and down the Indian River and its tributaries and to a large extent under cultivation of vegetables and citrus fruits, practically all of which is now transported by rail. The statistics furnished indicate the principal items of this commerce to consist of about 750,000 crates of pineapples, 75,000 crates of oranges, 1,000,000 crates of vegetables, and 30,000 barrels of fish. It is claimed that the annual freight charges paid on these products amount to about \$1,200,000, which, taken in connection with charges on articles shipped into this community and compared with a probable all-water rate, represents a possible saving of from \$200,000 to \$600,000 annually. The purpose of the improvement is to make it possible for seagoing vessels of moderate draft to enter the harbor within the inlet, where these vessels can anchor or lie at anchor and be loaded from numerous light-draft vessels which now ply Indian River and its tributaries. Much of the traffic of this vicinity is carried by these light-draft boats.

There are also in the vicinity of Lake Okechobee and the Everglades extensive tracts of timber lands in their virgin state without means of transportation. It is claimed that if the improvement now desired is carried into effect a canal will at once be constructed from Indian or St. Lucie River to the vicinity of these timber lands, and it will then be possible to market this timber.

In its report on the preliminary examination the Board recommended that a survey be made to determine the cost of a suitable improvement, which investigation up to that time indicated would be a channel of entrance 100 feet in depth. The district officer estimates the cost of such a channel 100 feet wide across the bar, protected by a single jetty, at \$1,400,000 if the channel is carried to Sewalls Point, a

distance of about 2 1/2 miles from the inlet, or \$1,390,000 if the channel is carried only to the natural basin, just inside the inlet. The division engineer concurs with the district officer in regard to the advisability of the improvement, but believes that two jetties would be required instead of one, and that by the use of a powerful Government dredge the entire work, including two jetties, might be carried out for less than \$1,000,000.

The Board, while recognizing that some economies are possible, can not concur with the division engineer in his estimate of saving, but does concur in believing that two jetties are necessary. The distance apart, however, should be a matter of further study. It further is of the opinion that a channel 250 feet wide by 18 feet deep across the bar will be sufficient for present needs, the channel inside to remain as suggested in the plan submitted by the district officer. The estimate for such a channel carried to Sewalls Point becomes \$1,310,000, based on prices of the the district officer. A second jetty would add to this estimate, based on his unit prices, say \$150,000. It is believed, however, that by the economies suggested, the total cost of the improvement as here suggested should not exceed \$1,400,000.

In view of the existing conditions at this locality and the great saving in freight rates that would apparently result, as well as the actual commerce that would probably develop, the board is of the opinion that the project as above described is worthy to be undertaken by the Government.

In view, however, of the fact that there is no town at this place, no navigable entrance channel, and no ocean commerce, and that the successful development of an entirely new deep-water port for such commerce is always more or less problematical, consideration is suggested of the desirability of requiring local interests to contribute a share of the expense thereof as has been recently done in at least one other instance. Ten per cent of the total estimated cost of the work would not seem to be an unreasonable amount to be thus contributed.

For the Board: D. W. LOCKWOOD,
Colonel Corps of Engineers,
Senior Member of the Board.

Air Ship Races at Daytona.

Senator W. J. Morgan (known the world over as Moting Morgan), manager of the Daytona Beach automobile races, has arranged for an aeronautic congress and races to be held in March at the time of the automobile races. Aeroplanes similar to those of the Wright brothers, will attempt record flights for large prizes. The big dirigible balloon United States, which has made a wonderful record in the various balloon races throughout the country, will fly from Daytona to St. Augustine and Jacksonville, and this feature alone will draw hundreds of visitors to Florida. The automobile races promise to be greater than ever before, as entries are coming in rapidly, both foreign and American cars.

Clarendon Inn Burned.

Last Sunday morning the elegant Clarendon Inn at Seabreeze was totally destroyed by fire, and the loss is estimated at \$200,000. The house was full of guests, there being two hundred and twenty-five registered from various parts of the country. All escaped without injury, saving most of their effects. The Clarendon was one of the most popular resort hotels on the coast and its loss is regretted by thousands.

A BIRTHDAY OUTING

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Baltz
Entertained on Sunday.

Party of Twenty-four Thoroughly
Enjoyed a Birthday Dinner
at Indian River Inlet.

Last Sunday Mr. Albert Baltz, of Philadelphia, who spends his winters at St. Lucie, was host at a delightful outing party at the inlet opposite St. Lucie, the occasion being the birthday of Mrs. Baltz. The party consisted of twenty-four members and each and every one thoroughly enjoyed the day and spoke in highest praise of the hospitality of the host.

Among those present were the following:

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Baltz, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Siedel, Messrs. George Rouminger, Julius Pfeging, George Talmon, J. H. Edwards, I. A. Swelgard, Louis Eisenlohr, J. F. Alburger, Edward Morse, John W. Durham, Lester I. Dingee, Gus. A. Muller, all of Philadelphia, A. K. Wilson and J. J. Chisholm, of the Tribune; A. B. Brown, of The News; Fred G. Hill, of the Florida Photographic Concern; Capt. Ben Sooy, Frank Depew, John Dutch, C. Summerlin and A. Summerlin.

Most of the above party are from Philadelphia and are regular winter visitors to St. Lucie.

The day was most delightful, except for a high southeast wind which, however, did not detract from the pleasure of the party. The point selected for the festivities was a most ideal place on the point of the island at the mouth of Indian River Inlet. The grounds had been transformed into a fairy garden under the clever manipulations of Capt. John Dutch with the use of palms and "Old Glory" bunting. The palmetto palms, being wrapped with bunting, and the stars and stripes stretching from tree to tree, the entire enclosure was like an immense room walled in with the national colors with a background of waving green palms.

At twelve o'clock all the guests had arrived and Mr. Baltz made each one feel at home by his genial hospitality and the coziness of his surroundings. The appetizing aroma of the feast in preparation and other stimulants, warmed up the guests to the spirit of the occasion. Amid the gaieties of the preparation for dinner Messrs. Siedel and Baltz discovered a new punch wherein the Indian River grapefruit is a prominent feature, and it was christened the "Al Baltz punch."

At the call for dinner the guests sat down to a feast, the mere thought of which tickles the palate and makes the mouth to water for another taste of the many good things to eat. In the center of the improvised outdoor table sat an immense birthday cake of many colors and decorations, surrounded by all the accessories of a royal feast, and prepared in the style for which Capt. Frank Depew and Capt. John Dutch are justly famous among the winter visitors. Mrs. Baltz occupied the place of honor and her health was toasted and drank with many expressions of good will and hopes for many happy returns of the day.

The menu consisted of the following:

Oysters, half shell
Pompano
Fried Chicken
Quail on Toast
Celery Lettuce Potato Salad
Krug's Champagne
Lewis 68 Whiskey
Baltz Beer
Tomatoes Horse Radish
Nuts Salted Almonds Olives
Oranges Grapefruit Pineapples
Scullions
Ice Cream Cake Pineapple Pie
Camenbet Cheese
Guava Jelly
Al Baltz Punch

Full justice was done the above, and like a feast of old, after the "hungry multitude" had been fed there was much left over, and good cheer flowed from each member of the party as they bubbled over with delight and happiness of the occasion.

During the day Mr. Fred Hill, of the Florida Photographic Concern, took

Spring Term of Circuit Court Now in Session

Grand Jury Investigating County Affairs. Much Business for Next Week.

an even dozen photographs of various groups, many copies of which will be preserved as souvenirs of the occasion.

Dan Baker Captured.

Dan Baker, the negro who killed Jesse Hall at Joe's Point, across the river from Jensen, on Thursday of last week, was captured the same day by Deputy Sheriff F. R. Trice and brought here and lodged in jail.

Much credit is due Mr. Trice for the manner in which he captured his man. Realizing the disadvantages of hunting a man with a crowd, Deputy Trice left the posse of some twenty men, and selecting two trusty negroes, took the trail. It was found that Baker had stolen a rowboat and crossed the river, landing near the mouth of the St. Lucie river at Sewalls Point. Deputy Trice reasoned that the hunted man would not approach the railroad directly, nor would he risk capture by attempting to conceal himself on the point between the St. Lucie and Indian rivers, but would probably cross the point, take advantage of the tide in St. Lucie river to cover his tracks in skirting the beach, and approach the railroad by a circuitous route through the woods. This deduction proved to be correct. Crossing Sewalls Point to the St. Lucie river, Deputy Trice soon discerned Baker's tracks in the sand, almost obliterated by the wash of the tide. For a hundred or more yards at a time the trail would be entirely lost, and then would appear a faint impression in the sand which held the pursuers to their quest. At last the trail left the river shore and led through the woods toward the railroad, and in an abandoned cabin within a mile of Jensen, Deputy Trice found his man.

Baker is now in jail awaiting the action of the grand jury and will probably be tried for his life during this session of court.

Bank Robber Captured Here.

A T. Jordon, a negro, who has been in the grocery business in west Fort Pierce for some time, probably realizes now that the hand of the law is a relentless and far-reaching proposition. Jordon was arrested last Thursday on affidavit of Mr. Henry E. Thomas, of the United States Secret Service, charged with the theft of \$4750 from the First National Bank of Turtle Creek, Pa., several months ago. It appears that Jordon was a trusted janitor in the bank, but the sight of nearly \$5,000 in one bunch proved too much for his integrity.

As no one saw Jordon take the money, Cashier Carroll and another employee of the bank were also suspected. Jordon was arrested, but as no money was found on him he was released, and Mr. Carroll made good the amount. The Cashier, however, has been in pursuit of Jordon, tracing him from place to place and finally running him down here. He was ably assisted by his friend, Mr. Thomas, who obtained a leave of absence from the United States Secret Service in order to assist in hunting the thief.

From the data secured by the detectives, Jordon has evidently had the time of his life with the stolen money, playing the races, wearing expensive clothing, leaving a golden trail wherever he went.

Jordon expressed his willingness to return to the scene of his crime for trial, so the proceedings against him here were dismissed. Messrs. Carroll and Thomas left here with their prisoner Saturday night.

Next Monday is Washington's birthday.

The regular spring term of circuit court in and for St. Lucie county convened Tuesday morning, His Honor Judge Minor S. Jones presiding, with States Attorney John C. Jones, Clerk J. E. Fultz and Sheriff D. S. Carlton in attendance.

The matter of securing a grand jury was at once taken up and the following citizens were sworn in as grand jurors:

S. S. Buell, foreman, R. V. Ankeny, clerk, A. A. Hendry, A. Y. W. Hogg, S. Lowe, Geo. M. Rae, R. J. Booth, J. S. Carter, T. B. Hicks, J. M. Lee, J. M. McCain, A. C. Kroegel, C. W. Fletcher, W. H. Lennard, G. W. Beal, G. P. Abstein, E. V. Walker, Geo. Ashby.

This representative body of St. Lucie county citizens began their work Tuesday noon and are now examining into the affairs of the county and will make their final report some time this week.

Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday were occupied by the Judge hearing chancery matters.

The following cases which were continued from last term, appear on the docket for consideration at this session:

State of Florida vs. J. W. Swain—dealing in intoxicating liquor.

State of Florida vs. John Henry—dealing in intoxicating liquor.

State vs. Harry Jennings—embezzlement.

State vs. W. H. Harris—embezzlement.

State vs. H. H. Munch—embezzlement.

State vs. W. H. Tompkins—embezzlement.

State vs. Thomas Hellier—embezzlement.

State vs. John Sorrensen—embezzlement.

State vs. N. G. Read—issuing fraudulent check.

Marx Bros. vs. Thos. J. DeSteuben—assumpsit.

The cases of alleged embezzlement above mentioned are in connection with the late Planters Security Bank of Jensen, and will probably be continued to a special term of court early in September.

If the grand jury finds true bills against those now charged with murder there will be four murder cases for consideration next week, all being negroes.

Among the lawyers having business before the court this week are the following: Otis R. Parker, G. R. Broome, F. L. Hemmings, A. D. Peney, Fred Fee, of Fort Pierce; R. E. Bray, Thos. J. DeSteuben, of Jensen, F. G. McMullen, Eden; Mitchell D. Price, F. M. Hudson, Geo. A. Worley, of Miami; Geo. M. Robbins, of Titusville, and John C. Jones, of Orlando.

Closing Week of Tampa Fair.

The management of the State Fair expects to make the last week of the exposition, beginning February 22, the most notable in many respects. An array of attractions is offered and it is expected that every day of that week will be marked by record breaking crowds. Monday is Washington's birthday and it will be fittingly observed at the fair. Wednesday is designated as North and West Florida day. Thursday will be Negro day, when distinguished members of that race will be in attendance. Friday is Citrus Fruit day, and the growers of all parts of the State will meet for discussion of the industry. Saturday, the closing day, will be marked by the announcement of the prize winners. In every respect the fair is attractive and instructive and those Floridians who have not seen it should not miss the closing week.

The Jerseys vs. Fort Pierce this afternoon.